FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

OCT 07 1974

TELETYPE

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NR 003 ME PLAIN

5:29 PM NITEL OCTOBER 7, 1974 JLC

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

MURKIN

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY HAILE, STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, NASHVILLE, TENN., HAS ADVISED THAT SUBJECT RAY TO BE GIVEN HEARING BEFORE JUDGE ROBERT M. MCRAE, JR., USDC, WDT, MEMPHIS, OCTOBER 22, 1974. EXPECTED TO TESTIFY FOR RAY ARE HERBERT I. MCDONALD, A BALLISTICS EXPERT FROM ITHACA, N. Y., AND HAROLD WEISBERG, AN AUTHOR WHO HAILE STATES HAS PREVIOUSLY FILED SUIT AGAINST FBI REGARDING ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JFK.

EX-103 REC-75 44-38861-596

MR. HAILE HAS REQUESTED THE BUREAU GIVE HIM ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE WHICH WOULD ASSIST HIM IN CROSS EXAMINATION OF MCDONALD AND WEISBERG. HE WILL KEEP SOURCE OF SUCH INFORMATION STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BUT NEEDS ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT HAVE A BEARING ON THEIR VERACITY, COMPETENCY, AND BIAS.

IF SUCH INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE BUREAU, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SAME BE FURNISHED CONFIDENTIALLY TO MR. HAILE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

OCT 11 1974

END

On 10/8/74 ASAC George Steel, AL, advised that index negative concerning Herbert I. McDonald.

Airtel to SAC, ME
RE: MURKIN

NOTE: The Memphis Division advised in referenced communication that a hearing for James Earl Ray is scheduled on 10/22/74 to determine whether Ray was coerced into entering a guilty plea on 3/10/69 to the murder of Martin Luther King.

Attorney Henry Haile, State Attorney General's Office, Nashville, had requested that the Bureau furnish him, on a confidential basis, any information available which would assist him in determining the veracity, competency, and bias of 2 witnesses who will testify for Ray, Harold Weisberg, an author, and Herbert I. McDonald, a ballistics expert from Ithaca, New York. Memphis Division recommended that any pertinent information be made available to Haile.

A review of Bufiles reveals that Weisberg has written several books critical of the Warren Commission, the FBI, Secret Service, and various police agencies. Gleaned from these files are copies of two newspaper articles pertaining to Weisberg which might be of assistance to Attorney Haile in analyzing the credibility of Weisberg as a witness. The first is an article which appeared in the Montgomery County Sentinal, Thursday, December 15, 1966, entitled "'Whitewash' Author is Man on the Go," which makes reference to Weisberg's theory of an FBI, Secret Service coverup before the Warren Commission. The second article, which appeared in "The Evening Star," October 25, 1973, reveals that Weisberg had lost his bid before the U. S. Court of Appeals to gain access to FBI files pertaining to the John F. Kennedy assassination.

Bufiles also reveal that Weisberg was furnished all of the legal papers utilized in the extradition of Ray from Great Britain, including material submitted by the States of Tennessee and Missouri, affidavits from witnesses, as well as affidavits from Special Agents of the FBI linking Ray to the assassination. That Weisberg is in possession of this material might be of assistance to Attorney Haile in further assessing the credibility of Weisberg.

On 10/8/74, ASAC George Steel, Albany Division, advised that indices contain no reference to Herbert I. McDonald.

On 10/9/74, [redacted], Office of Legal Counsel, reviewed enclosed material and advised that this material could be furnished to Mr. Haile, State Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tennessee.